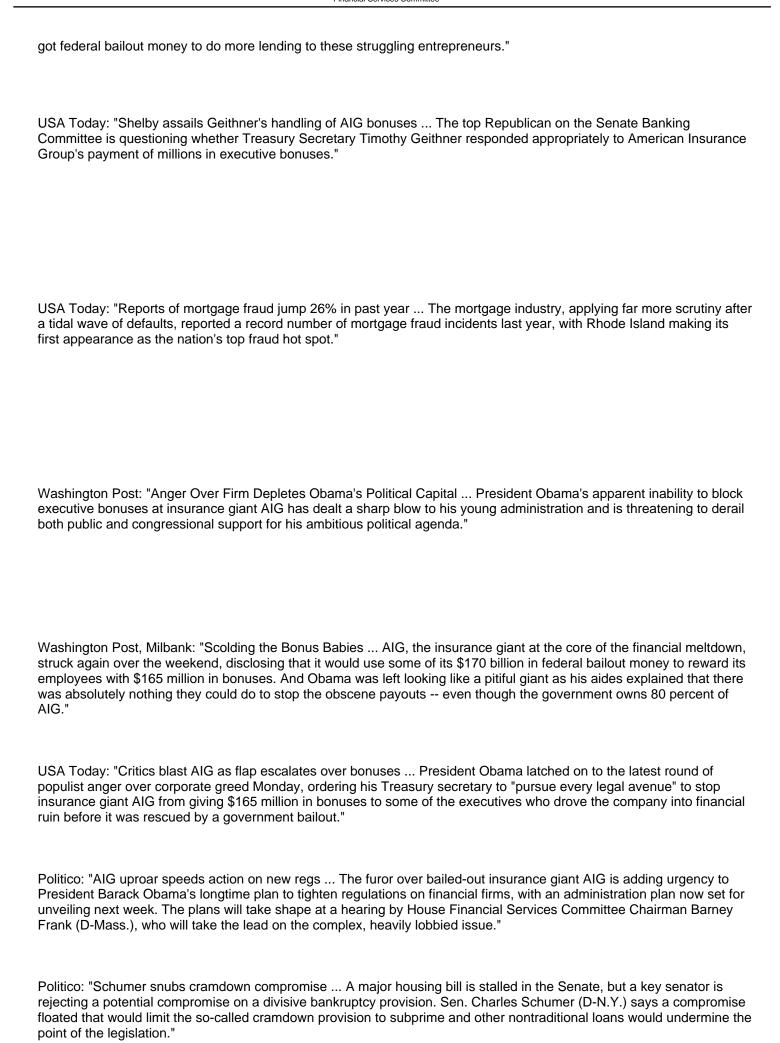
FINANCIAL SERVICES REPUBLICAN MORNING CLIPS 3.17.2009

Wall Street Journal: "Political Heat Sears AIG President Barack Obama said Monday that he would "pursue every single legal avenue to block" \$165 million in bonuses to American International Group Inc. employees who were in part responsible for the insurance giant's near collapse. But hours later, administration officials said the payouts made Friday couldn't be extracted from their recipients without a legal fight that would cost the taxpayers even more."
Wall Street Journal: "Wall Street Pursues Pay Loopholes Some Wall Street firms are looking for ways to sidestep tough new federal caps on compensation."
Wall Street Journal, Peter Wallison: "Congress Is the Real Systemic Risk After their experience with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, you'd think that Congress would no longer be interested in creating companies seen by the market as backed by the government. Yet that is exactly what the relevant congressional committees the Senate Banking Committee and the House Financial Services Committee are now considering."
Wall Street Journal, Editorial: "The Real AIG Outrage President Obama joined yesterday in the clamor of outrage at AIG for paying some \$165 million in contractually obligated employee bonuses. He and the rest of the political class thus neatly deflected attention from the larger outrage, which is the five-month Beltway cover-up over who benefited most from the AIG bailout."
Financial Times: "US acts to help small businesses The US Treasury will try to restart lending to small businesses by spending up to \$15bn to buy securities from banks and cajoling them to write new loans."

package of aid to small businesses - "the heart of the American economy" - in an aggressive push to get big banks that http://republicans.financialservices.house.gov

Associated Press: "Obama offers more aid to small businesses ... President Barack Obama on Monday offered a fresh



Politico: "AIG bonuses: Bring on the lawyers ... The only real difference between Bernie Madoff and the management of AIG is that when Bernie Madoff got caught, he pleaded guilty. When AIG got caught, it asked the government for \$170 billion."

Roll Call: "Democrats Struggle to Reach 60 on Bankruptcy ... If you want drama, turn off "America's Next Top Model" and tune in to the Democrats' troubled quest to pass bankruptcy reforms for homeowners."

National Review, Lowry: "AIG Shame ... Now, that's cost efficiency. It took a mere \$165 million to discredit the entire \$11.6 trillion edifice of bailouts, capital infusions, and guarantees that have accompanied the financial meltdown."

Investor's Business Daily, Kudlow: "Combine Mark-To-Market Reform With Upward-Sloping Yield Curve ... Is it really necessary for taxpayers to spend another dime on the TARP? We've already committed \$700 billion, half of which was spent under President Bush and half of which is coming under President Obama."